

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-10 (Canceled)

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): A hard-drawn steel wire comprising:

C: 0.5-0.7mass% (hereinafter, referred to as %),

Si: 1.0-1.95%,

Mn: 0.5-1.5%, and

Cr: 0.5-1.5%,

Fe and inevitable impurities,

said wire further comprising 5 particles/ $100\mu\text{m}^2$ or less of carbides wherein the circle-equivalent diameters of the carbides are 0.1 μm or more.

Claim 12 (Currently Amended): The steel wire according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 11, further comprising 0.05-0.5% of Ni.

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The steel wire according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 11, further comprising 0.3% or less (excluding 0%) of Mo.

Claim 14 (Currently Amended): The steel wire according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 12, further comprising 0.3% or less (excluding 0%) of Mo.

Claims 15-42 (Canceled)

Claim 43 (New): The steel wire according to claim 11, said wire comprising 2 particles/100 μm^2 or less of carbides wherein the circle-equivalent diameters of the carbides are 0.1 μm or more.

Claim 44 (New): The steel wire according to claim 43, further comprising 0.05-0.5% of Ni.

Claim 45 (New): The steel wire according to claim 43, further comprising 0.3% or less (excluding 0%) of Mo.

Claim 46 (New): The steel wire according to claim 44, further comprising 0.3% or less (excluding 0%) of Mo.

Claim 47 (New): The steel wire according to claim 11, wherein the steel wire consists of at least one selected from the group consisting of ferrite and pearlite.

Claim 48 (New): A method of using a steel wire, the method comprising coiling the steel wire of claim 11 into a spring.